

emergency/urgency. It has, however, been found that in some cases where negative or incomplete police reports have been received by the Passport Offices, there have been some delays in issuing new Passports. In such cases, necessary follow-up action is invariably taken by the concerned Passport Officers in getting complete reports from the concerned police authorities and also by advising the applicants to approach the concerned police authorities with original documents/court order to get clear reports from them on the basis of which passports are then issued.

(c) and (d). The number of employees in Regional Passport Office, Mumbai are as per prescribed norms and keeping in view the volume of work handled by this office, the existing staff strength appears to be adequate.

(e) and (f). The possibility of setting up another Passport office is being examined. In the meantime it is proposed to open a Passport Collection Centre at Thane.

[English]

Construction of Tunnel under Rohtang Pass

2963. SHRI SUKH RAM : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to construct a tunnel under Rohtang Pass;

(b) if so, whether any survey was conducted for the same; and

(c) if so, the progress made in construction of the tunnel under Rohtang Pass and expenditure incurred thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) and (b). The feasibility study of constructing a tunnel has been entrusted to M/s. RITES.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Repair of N.H. in Gujarat

2964. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Highway between Bharuch and Wapi needs repair and the aforesaid highway is under enormous traffic pressure;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any repair work is likely to be undertaken on the National Highway between Ahmedabad and Mumbai during 1996-97; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) The Bharuch-Wapi section of National Highway 8 is heavily trafficked and is being maintained in a traffic worthy condition within the available resources.

(b) For maintenance and repairs of National Highways including the Bharuch-Wapit section, the following releases have been made :

1994-95	:	Rs. 1316.64 lakhs
1995-96	:	Rs. 1745.20 lakhs
1996-97	:	Rs. 391.30 lakhs (upto July, 1996)

(c) and (d). No Flood Damage Repair estimate for the year 1996-97 has been received for the National Highway from Ahmedabad to Mumbai.

[English]

Inter-State Transport Schemes

2965. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of important inter-state transport schemes sanctioned during the last three years; and

(b) the details thereof and the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b). As per information obtained from the State Governments no such scheme has been sanctioned for any State/Union Territories except in case of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli. Reply from these States/ Union Territories have not been received.

Imported Contraceptives

2966. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether huge consignment of imported contraceptives for the national family planning programme has been found faulty by the statutory testing authority;

(b) whether any investigations have been made in the matter; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) to (c). Samples from an imported consignment of tubal rings were found not meeting one of the parameters of BIS specifications in the testing Laboratory at IIT. However, samples were found acceptable when retested at another laboratory. The